

Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBC) Commission
Agency of Transportation, Dill Building, 2178 Airport Road, Berlin
Minutes of Meeting
May 10, 2017

- Chair, Terry LaValley, called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm with the following Commission members present: Ken Jones, ACCD; Chris Herrick, DPS; Thomas Hango, VSP; Doug Johnston, Vermont Police Chiefs; Steven Locke; Burlington Fire Department; Daniel Manz, EMS (arrived after the meeting started); Barbara Neale, E911; and Ron Kumetz, Vermont Firefighters Association (arrived after the meeting started); and Guests present: Michael Varney, FirstNet; Lisa Helme, DPS; Nick Brunelli, DPS; Rhonda Camley, DPS; Karen Smith, DPS; Brandon Abley, Televate (via conference call); Justin Shore, FirstNet; Owen Smith, AT&T; Rick Koehler, AT&T; Robert Klein, AT&T; Joe Sebastiano, AT&T; Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS; Alex Portalupi, AOT; Steve Whitaker, member of the public.
- **Agenda Review & Minute Approval: Steve Locke moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Tom Hango. Motion carried. It was noted that Barb Neale and Ken Jones abstained from voting while a legal issue is being resolved with the Governor's office. Steve Locke moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Motion seconded by Chris Herrick. Motion carried.**
- **Update from Terry LaValley, FirstNet Single Point of Contact/PSBN Chair:** Terry LaValley reported there have been several calls with FirstNet preparing for the project; some public questions were received and research has been started in answering those questions; and the State guideline/review plan package was received on May 5, 2017. He sent a letter to FirstNet (copy distributed to attendees) requesting technical information used to create the state plan, which will be used in reviewing the proposal. Also requested was the data AT&T collects to ensure coverage. Some concern about coverage was expressed. Lisa Helme reviewed a PowerPoint presentation about the guidance package and proposed a process for the commission to follow to review the draft state plan (copy distributed to attendees). Some discussions held during the presentation included: access to the FirstNet portals (there will be one for the public and one restricted to authorized users) with a function enabling reviewers to submit comments within the portal on the restricted site; individuals that should be on the list submitted to FirstNet for access to the restricted portal; and accepting the terms and conditions on using the portal. She reviewed the proposal to create three (3) working groups (a technical group, an operations group, and a financial and product group) to review specific aspects of the state plan. It was noted that a template will be provided for reviewing the plan; Televate will hold a briefing on their findings; and there will be a National Kickoff meeting in Dallas, Texas on June 7-8, 2017. The SPOC and 4 additional people are invited to attend; Terry, Lisa and a representative for the Governor have been selected so far. There are two (2) additional spots

available for Commission members interested in going. Once the plan is available, a link to the public portal will be posted on the Commission's home page. Some suggestions included: having a firm end date for the review period, to have specific authorized users, and holding public meetings. A question asked was if the working groups will be meeting in executive session. It was noted that clarification from a legal perspective is pending as there is a fine line between transparency and protecting sensitive data. It was requested to supply the names of those who should have access to the restricted portion of the portal to Terry LaValley and Lisa Helme by Noon on Friday, May 12, 2017. It was noted that Vermont's review plan is well laid out.

- **Update on National FirstNet Status, Michael Varney:** Terry LaValley introduced Mike Varney and noted that many questions about coverage and costs were asked of FirstNet and AT&T earlier in the day. Mike Varney and AT&T representatives jointly presented a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included some background on AT&T's work in Vermont over the last several years upgrading their network; the partnership; expected financial commitment from both FirstNet and AT&T; and included enhancements (for example: pre-emption services, cyber security, dedicated support center, and expertise). It was shared that AT&T plans to install six (6) more sites this year; they have 179 sites, and 38 sites are being upgraded to LTE by the end of this year. It was requested to forward any questions/comments that should be included in the State Plan to Terry LaValley. A handout was distributed with questions for FirstNet and AT&T, which were answered in the presentation. Some discussions included: determining who has pre-emption rights and when those services will be available; deployable assets; and coverage. AT&T reviewed some of their upcoming plans for improved coverage/service. The method used to determine coverage was discussed, along with AT&T's plan to offer an all bands plan, which gives the end user a better experience/service as devices can use multiple bands at the same time. Some questions asked included: how devices will be identified to use the network; and if towers will be hardened to the same specs as public safety specs. It was noted that typically the same areas are used for their testing; there is a certain amount of backhaul with local entities included in the project; a SIM chip will be installed in the device; and some of the towers are hardened, but not all of them due to logistics. Managing those with access was discussed and details of how this will work will be demonstrated at the meeting in Dallas. A question asked was whether partial responses would be accepted from the PSBC and SPOC to FirstNet prior to day 45 or only complete responses on day 45. FirstNet will obtain an answer. A concern expressed was that Vermont might be viewed as a small blip on a national scale. It was noted that governors will not receive the final state plan simultaneously, but rather as each state completes and submits their review of the draft plan. This is different than was previously communicated by FirstNet. The change was made to accommodate those states that were ready to make a quick decision regarding whether to opt-in or opt-out. A discussion was held regarding penalties if AT&T does not meet requirements for securing public safety subscribers in Vermont. A discussion was held regarding public safety entities and

current providers and whether public safety users are willing to change providers. AT&T shared that they are honored to be the partner and recognize continued upgrades will be needed in Vermont and improvements to the LTE experience is necessary. Some of the incentives highlighted for entities to switch to AT&T may include the FirstNet call center, application ecosystem, core that supports each state's RAM; and that this will be a new network with new features. Terry LaValley thanked FirstNet and AT&T for the presentation and for bringing so many representatives to the meeting.

- **General Business:**
 - Outreach activities: Lisa Helme reported that she will be attending an APCO broadband summit meeting in Washington DC next week and that they continue to attend first responder functions.

- **Public Comment:** Steve Whitaker expressed his concerns and suggestions, which included: encouragement for Commission members to be involved in debating what is proprietary and non-proprietary information; that the blanket terms and conditions for the review portal may go against the public records law in Vermont; the amount of coverage requested; if AT&T would be willing to work with other vendors to make a different model work in Vermont; why dead zones are a secret; what AT&T's penalty would be if they can't meet Vermont's coverage needs; and why first responders have not been polled regarding their willingness to change to AT&T and the current network being used.

Ken Jones made a motion for Terry to work with Televate to determine those to be authorized to be included in the portal access. Motion seconded by Doug Johnston. Motion carried.

- **Adjournment:** Dan Manz made motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Steve Locke. Meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm.